

the people from the oil and gas monopolies. America must begin to take care of things at home to protect Social Security from privatization, to have the wealthy pay a fair share of the taxes. America must begin to take care of things at home, to have an exit strategy from Iraq to bring our troops home. America must begin to take care of things at home to rebuild the gulf coast, to rebuild the American economy, to rebuild hope in the future, to end fear and uncertainty.

Who will protect the American people if we do not? We will assure and must assure their education, jobs, living wages, health care, and retirement security. If we do not, who will?

IRAQIS TAKING CHARGE OF THEIR OWN NATION

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Iraqis are not yet fully capable of defending themselves against the terrorists. But they are getting much closer.

In Tal Afar 5,000 Iraqis led 3,800 Americans in taking back the town from terrorists. The force killed 157 terrorists, captured 440, seized 34 weapons caches. The victory is a watershed moment in the war against terror. It was the largest urban offensive in Iraq since Americans led the Fallujah offensive last year. It is proof that with proper training Iraqis can do it better than us.

In Fallujah, the Americans withdrew and the terrorists reappeared. In Tal Afar, though, Iraqis are weeding out the terrorists and seeding the town with security forces. This will become the model for future operations in towns like Ramadi. Upcoming elections and the permanent establishment of the Iraqi constitution will lend legitimacy to this young democracy and move them closer to victory. Another ally in the cause of freedom.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, despite our recent flood insurance reforms, Katrina revealed that much remains to be done. Damage on a massive scale triggered payouts and borrowing that mean the program must be revised, including a significant one-time-only subsidy. We should reconsider who must be covered and how the insurance premiums will be paid as well as the tricky question of flood versus wind damage. And certainly more attention must be given to the role and responsibilities of communities to make their citizens safer. It is very likely that some of the weakest regulatory protections in the Nation contributed to the Katrina devastation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this critical effort to fix the flood in-

surance program today and reform it for the future.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, fiscal responsibility is one of those tenets of our Republican philosophy. It is something our constituents remind us of every day. A constituent called yesterday following our Operation Offset press conference. She liked what she saw. Her advice was an old adage from her granny: Mind your pennies and your dollars will mind themselves.

I said, No, we're minding your pennies, the taxpayers' pennies, their dollars. This is their money. It is not government's money. We need to remember that.

Mr. Speaker, this House under our Republican leadership has passed a 2006 budget that worked to reduce discretionary spending. It is a great step in beginning to rein in the growth of government. I commend them for that. This House has passed tax relief that has led to 3 million new jobs being created. We need to keep that. I want to thank the leadership for that good work and to thank them for encouraging every Member of this body to work with them to find a way for us to address the needs that our Nation has in response to Hurricane Katrina. I want to thank Republican Study Committee Chairman PENCE for his good work on Operation Offset in providing us with another opportunity to reaffirm that we are the party of fiscal responsibility.

KATRINA AND IRAQ COSTS

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, the double standard in this Congress takes your breath away. In the 2½ years since I have been in Congress, this body has allocated nearly \$400 billion for Iraq without a worry about the deficit. You have funded three wars with four tax cuts and added \$3 trillion to the Nation's debt. Yet when this Congress is facing a tab for rebuilding the lives of Americans that is roughly half of what we have spent in the Iraqi war, suddenly everybody is a deficit hawk in this institution.

In Iraq we have spent millions to rebuild the Sweet Water Canal system, including the repair of the levee system. But here in America we cut levee construction and repair for Louisiana by 80 percent. When it comes to rebuilding Iraq, this Congress writes hot checks. Rebuilding America? You want to cut education and health care. Your inconsistency is breathtaking, especially when America draws the short stick. When it comes to rebuilding in the gulf coast, you are turning yourself

into pretzels, all to protect tax cuts for the wealthy.

But rebuilding Iraq should not come at the expense of America's future. Everyone must have skin in the game when it comes to meeting our challenges. Freedom is not free. This Congress cannot have one set of books and one set of priorities for Iraq and another for the American people and their future.

LAWSUIT ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as a third generation physician, I have seen health care in our Nation change in the most dynamic of ways. Advances in medicine and technology have improved the lives of millions of people. Today, however, the doctor-patient relationship that is so critical in providing quality health care is being exploited. It is no wonder that four out of every five Americans are wary of frivolous lawsuits in health care. Insurance companies, personal injury trial lawyers and even the potential of a lawsuit are leading hospitals to close their doors and doctors to stop practicing faster than ever before.

Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week begins on October 3, not a moment too soon. Health care decisions must and should be made in the clinic and the operating room, not the courtroom. Decisions should be in the best interests of patients, not in the best interests of the pocketbooks of personal injury lawyers. I have seen it happen myself, with doctors making medical decisions out of fear of lawsuits, not from what they learned in medical school. That is not why they devoted their lives to medicine. Their only desire is to help heal people, not worry about whether their diagnosis would be put on trial.

HONORING MANUEL ESQUEDA

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Manuel Esqueda, a retired banker who over his lifetime helped send nearly 2,000 Latino students to college, many of whom were the first in their families to go.

Manuel's dedication to his community and education came from his deep-seated connection to the Delhi neighborhood of Santa Ana, California, where he grew up and where his family was able to buy a home when other Mexican Americans were unable to do so. He was active in the development of the Delhi Community Center, which is now a centerpiece of that neighborhood.

In honor of his community service, the Manuel Esqueda Elementary

School was dedicated on September 8, 2005, to honor a man who never wanted recognition for himself but whose dedication to his community and to the Latino people of Santa Ana, California garnered him prestige and love.

Manuel was honored to have a school named for him, and from his hospital bed he tried to hold on so he could be there for the first day of school. Unfortunately, Manuel passed away 2 days before he was able to witness the opening of this school with his name.

He will be remembered fondly and his spirit will go on in all those young people who enter the doors of the Esqueda Elementary School in Santa Ana.

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TAX BREAKS FOR THE GAMBLING INDUSTRY

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe the White House is planning to provide the gambling industry in the gulf region with special tax breaks as part of their economic recovery package. This is a disgrace.

In the wake of devastation left by Hurricane Katrina, taxpayer dollars should be helping these, indeed, the poor and the vulnerable.

In today's Washington Post, White House officials are quoted as saying they do not plan to exclude the gambling interests from receiving tax breaks.

In Mississippi, the gambling interests do not even receive special economic development tax breaks. I am outraged. And probably more telling is the shock coming from the industry itself.

A Harrah's spokesman in this morning's Post is quoted as saying, "We're actually scratching our heads. We can't ever remember an instance of being offered a tax credit, ever!"

Economists in Mississippi say it is not needed. "The casinos don't need this. If they are eligible, that would be a complete waste of money," from an economist from Ole Miss in The Washington Post today.

It is outrageous with budget deficits growing to historic levels, tax breaks for the gambling industry does not make sense.

The Bush administration, I will tell you, if this is in their package, this will be a disgrace and the American people will turn against this administration.

Give the money to the poor, the needy, the vulnerable, and not to the gambling interests that already have special insurance policies for this.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2123, SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2005

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I

call up House Resolution 455 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 455

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2123) to reauthorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). The gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

The resolution before us provides for a structured rule for the consideration of H.R. 2123, the School Readiness Act of 2005, and makes a good number of important amendments in order and will provide for a full and wide-ranging debate on all the aspects of the Head Start program.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2123 was passed out of the Committee on Education and the Workforce unanimously. It reauthorizes the Head Start program for fiscal

2011. At the same time, the bill incorporates a number of wide-ranging and widely supported commonsense improvements to Head Start which will improve teacher education standards, increase the accountability for the use of funds, and enhance outreach to the most deserving students.

The underlying bill does not include provisions which were deemed by some controversial in the base text, such as providing hiring protection for faith-based Head Start providers. Instead, the rule does provide for this and other items to be debated and voted upon separately so that the House may work its will and the final outcome will reflect the views of the majority of the Members, which is an understandable approach.

The Head Start program has provided comprehensive early childhood development services to low-income and disadvantaged children since the mid-1960s. Today, almost 1 million students are involved in Head Start. The Head Start program is good. In some places the Head Start program is great.

I do not want to be a little bit parochial here, but being well acquainted with those involved in Head Start in my particular area, they do a great job and I am very proud of my association with them. But in each of these situations, the program still could be better. For that purpose, this bill focuses or attempts to focus the academic program more clearly in particular areas. They put greater emphasis on language skills, prereading, premath, and cognitive skills. They insist that any new money above and beyond the funding skills, 60 percent of that be tendered only to teacher quality, which is where that emphasis needs to be.

The Head Start program is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and is accomplished through grants that directly go to applying entities.

The Head Start program has been largely successful because the Head Start program is locally designed and they are administered by a network of 1,600 public and private nonprofit and forprofit agencies at the local level. Because of this local emphasis, educators can tailor their approaches to fill the specific needs of the populations they serve, instead of a one-size-fits-all approach that too many other Federal programs, including other Federal education programs, have.

Especially important is this particular thing, that in the text of this particular bill it puts a greater emphasis on tying Head Start programs to a State's curricular standards. To be a priority grantee in the Head Start program, they have to show a pure correlation to a State's curriculum standard. This is for the benefit of the kids coming through the system.

Of increasing specific importance to me is the local tie-in that is demanded by this particular bill. The Head Start